1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa

relative. If the older child had been sickly, however, it would be kept for a long time before it was used again. A second, larger cradle, of exactly the same type was made when the first was outgrown after two or three months.

The cradle was the flat carrying-board of the type used on the lower Colorado River: a narrow arch with long parallel sides to which transverse rods were lashed and provided with a broad hood of basketry. The supplemental articles needed to cradle the child were a bark mattress, a pad to go under the shoulders, cloths with which to wrap the infant, and two bands to bind it to the cradle frame (Pl. XV).

The cradle showed the sex of the infant at several points: by the spacing of the cross-pieces of the frame, the decoration of the hood and the objects tied to it, and the design of the upper binding band. As a matter of fact, they used what they pleased in assembling a cradle. A specimen in use for a little girl, which I bought,[2] had been made for an older brother. It had a boy's frame, while the hood and band were those of a girl. But it lacked the extra mattress required for a girl.

The arch of the frame was tough mesquite root, bent into shape and tied until it dried. The transverse rods were arrowweed, lashed to the arch and wrapped with split small roots of mesquite, chosen because of its strength. These rods were not long enough to rest on the arch, but lay between its side arms. The lashing passed twice around one arm, was wrapped around the rod for its whole length, wound twice around the opposite arm, and the free end tucked under the lashing (Pl. XV, *b*). A man was requested to lash the rods since it took great strength to get the lashings taut. The number of cross pieces depended on the sex of the infant: for a boy these were seven or eight evenly spaced; for a girl one less, leaving a wider space about the middle of the frame, so that the girl would grow up to have fleshy buttocks.

The mattress was made of broad strips of willow bark arranged in three bundles, each bent in an arch and tied (Pl. XV, *c*).

[2] Washington State Museum, No. 2-11913.